

# **COLOMBO RESOLUTION**

## **SIXTH MEETING OF THE FORUM OF ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODIES OF SOUTH ASIA**

**(FEMBoSA)**

**1-2 OCTOBER 2015**

**COLOMBO, SRI LANKA**

*[Handwritten signatures and initials at the bottom of the page, including "N. Kumar", "S. S. S. S.", "S. S. S. S.", "S. S. S. S.", "S. S. S. S.", and "S. S. S. S."]*



1<sup>ST</sup> - 2<sup>ND</sup> October 2015, Colombo, Sri Lanka

## RESOLUTIONS

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Forum of Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA) was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2015, attended by eight Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) of South Asia on the theme: "Autonomy and Independence of EMBs":

Recalling the objectives as envisaged in the Forum Charter and Thimphu Resolution of 2013 and Nepal Resolution of 2014 respectively;

Reaffirming our commitment to ensure free and fair elections, promoting participatory and inclusive democracies;

Accepting the inclusion and participation of eligible electors as the cornerstone of free and fair elections;

Believing in the importance of Participation of Women for free and fair Elections;

Recognizing the importance of autonomous and independent Election Management Bodies (EMBs) for strengthening democracy;

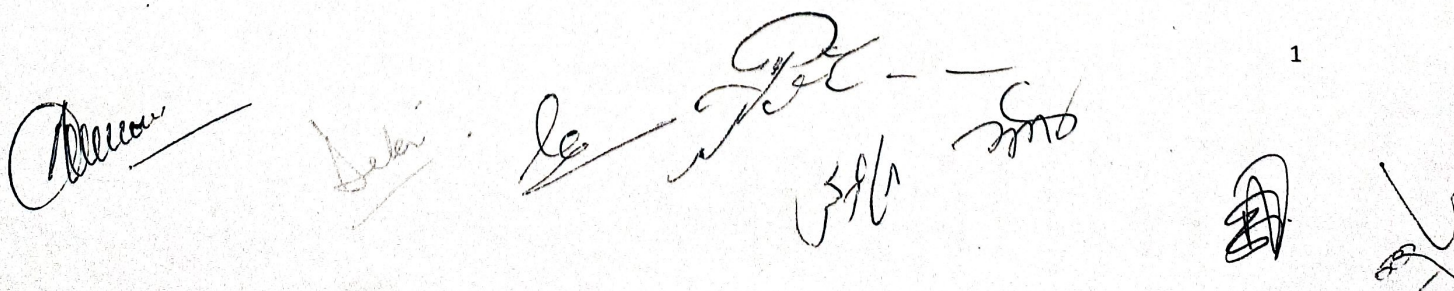
Appreciating the efforts made in overcoming the challenges faced in conducting Free and Fair Elections in conflict scenarios;

Acknowledging that constructive and pro-active media engagement is essential for credible elections;

Realizing the necessity of considering the suggestions presented to FEMBoSA with regard to Disability Inclusive Elections in South Asia to the degree of EMBs capacity;

Reiterating and noting the importance of engagement of young Voters in Democracy and the Impact of Social Media;

Acknowledging the importance of strategic planning for EMBs;

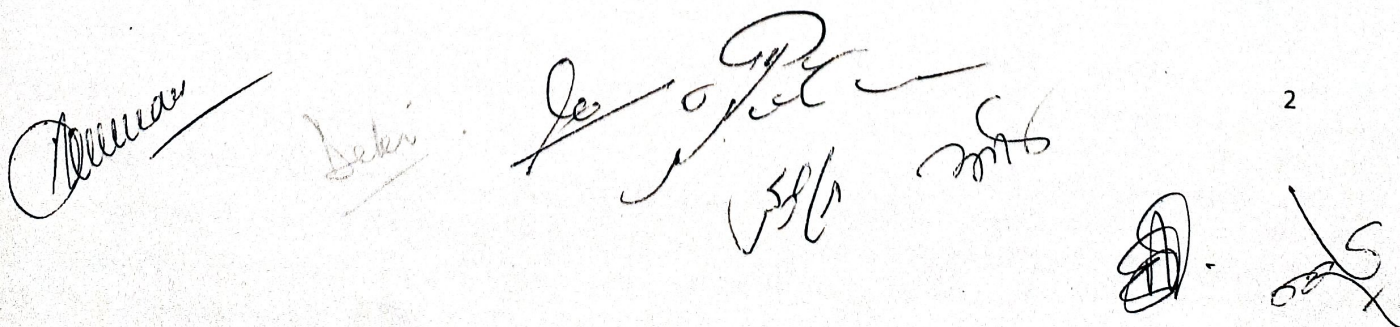
The bottom of the page features several handwritten signatures and initials in dark ink. From left to right, there is a large, stylized signature, followed by a smaller signature, then a signature that appears to be 'Le', and a large, bold signature that looks like 'FEC'. Below these are various initials, including 'USA' and 'SMB'. On the far right, there are two more signatures, one of which is a checkmark-like mark.



We, the Members of the Forum of EMBs of South Asia, the Electoral Management Bodies of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in attendance at the 6<sup>th</sup> Forum meeting in Colombo hereby resolve as follows:

- (1) Reiterate "Free and Fair Election: Pride of Nation" as the motto of the Forum of EMBs.
- (2) Commend the excellent role played by the Election Commission of Nepal as Chair in Office during 2014/2015 in implementing the Work Plan and playing a pivotal and active role for effective coordination among EMBs;
- (3) Decide to implement the Work Plan as approved by the Member States in the sixth meeting of FEMBoSA, held in Colombo;
- (4) Express the heartfelt sympathy, solidarity as well as appreciation for courage to overcome and rebuild from the devastating effects of the earthquake in Nepal which also affected neighbouring countries;
- (5) Recommend for Disability-inclusive elections in South Asia based on their 9 points submission, unanimously support the cause and resolved to prioritize and develop common minimum standards, some of which are already been taken up while others would require more time for consideration,
- (6) Place on record our gratitude to H.E Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, CEC of Bhutan, H.E. V.S. Sampath and H.E. H.S. Brahma CECs of India and H.E. Neel Kantha Uprety, CEC of Nepal for their yeoman services in nurturing FEMBoSA.

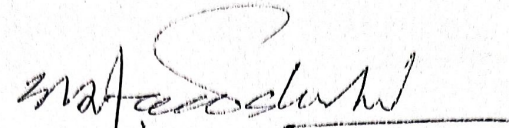
Adopted unanimously in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015.

A series of handwritten signatures in black ink, including names like 'Dharma', 'Beki', 'Je', 'V.S.', and others, along with a circular stamp and a signature with a large 'S'.



  
H.E. Dr. ABDUL RAHMAN HOTAKI

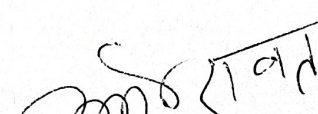
Vice Chairman, Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan

  
H.E. KAZI RAKIBUDDIN AHMAD

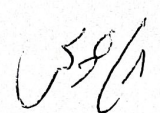
Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission Bangladesh

  
H.E. AUM DEKI PEMA

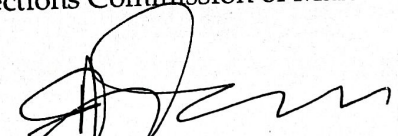
Election Commissioner, Election Commission of Bhutan

  
H.E. OM PRAKASH RAWAT

Election Commissioner of India

  
H.E. AHMED SULAIMAN

Chairman, Elections Commission of Maldives

  
H.E. Dr. AYODHEE PRASAD YADAV

Chief Election Commissioner, Election Commission of Nepal

  
H.E. ABBAS ALI KHAN

Director General, Election Commission of Pakistan

  
MAHINDA DESHAPRIYA

Commissioner of Elections, Department of Elections, Sri Lanka